My Lord Northumberland wil ſoone be coold.
King O God that one might reade the booke of fate,
And ſee the reuolution of the times,
Make mountaines leuell, and the continent
Weary of ſolide firmeneſſe melt it ſelfe
Into the ſea, and other times to ſee,
The beachie girdle of the ocean,
Too wide for Neptunes hips, how chances mockes,
And changes fill the cup of alteration,
With diuers liquors! O if this were ſeene,
The happieſt youth viewing his progreſſe through,
What perills paſt, what croſſes to enſue?
Would ſhut the booke and ſit him downe and die:
Tis not ten yeeres gone,
Since Richard and Northumberland great friends,
Did feaſt togither, and in two yeare after
Were they at warres: it is but eight yeares ſince,
This Percie was the man neereſt my ſoule,
Who like a brother toyld in my affaires;
And laied his loue and life vnder my foote,
Yea for my ſake, euen to the eyes of Richard,
Gaue him defyance: but which of you was by?
You couſen Neuel, (as I may remember)
When Richard with his eye-brimme full of teares,
Then checkt and rated by Northumberland,
Did ſpeake theſe wordes now prooud a prophecie:
Northumberland, thou ladder by the which
My couſen Bolingbrooke aſcends my throne,
(Though then (God knowes) I had no ſuch intent,
But that neceſſitie ſo bowed the ſtate,
That I and greatneſſe were compeld to kiſſe.)
The time ſhall come, thus did he follow it,
The time wil come, that foule ſin gathering head,
Shall breake into corruption: ſo went on,
Fortelling this ſame times condition,

And the deuiſion of our amitie.
War. There is a hiſtorie in all mens liues,
Figuring the natures of the times deceaſt:
The which obſeru'd, a man may prophecie,
With a neere ayme of the maine chance of things,
As yet not come to life, who in their ſeedes,
And weake beginning lie intreaſured:
Such thinges become the hatch and broode of time,
And by the neceſſary forme of this,
King Richard might create a perfect gueſſe,
That great Northumberland then falſe to him,
Would of that ſeede growe to a greater falſeneſſe,
Which ſhould not find a ground to roote vpon
Vnleſſe on you.
King. Are theſe thinges then neceſſities,
Then let vs meet them like neceſſities,
And that ſame word euen now cries out on vs:
They ſay the Biſhop and Northumberland,
Are fiftie thouſand ſtrong.
War. It cannot be my Lord,
Rumour doth double like the voice, and eccho
The numbers of the feared, pleaſe it your grace,
To go to bedde: vpon my ſoule, my Lord,
The Powers that you alreadie haue ſent foorth,
Shall bring this priſe in very eaſily:
To comfort you the more, I haue receiued,
A certain inſtance that Glendour is dead:
Your Maieſtie hath beene this fortnight ill,
And theſe vnſeaſoned howers perforce muſt adde
Vnto your ſickneſſe.
King. I will take your counſaile,
And were theſe inward warres once out of hand,
We would (deare Lords) vnto the holy land. *exeunt*

Enter Iuſtice Shallow, and Iuſtice Silence.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Henry IV. Part 2* (STC 2228a) LONDON, 1600 THE BRITISH LIBRARY (C.34.k.12) Octavo